

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Care Urged in Inspection of Cherry Deliveries

Reports from the field indicate that the cherry fruit fly is active in some canning districts. Canners are urged to exercise the utmost care to prevent the delivery of infested cherries.

Truck Crop Markets

Fruit and vegetable markets have been rather liberally supplied lately, and the price trend of most products is downward, according to the U. S. Market News Service.

Most of the apple shipments for the week ended July 27 came from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Illinois and Northern California. Western shipments were increasing slowly and totaled 150 cars last week. Eastern output decreased to 240 cars. Total forwardings were only half those of a year ago.

Grape shipments were only 170 cars, chiefly California and Arizona stock. Celery was coming mainly from Michigan, that state being credited with 95 of the week's 115 cars.

Green peas from New York and Washington were supplying the market. Iowa moved 75 cars of cabbage and Virginia about 100 cars. Shipments of California pears increased to 835, or double the preceding week's output.

Combined forwardings of 29 leading products decreased to 18,610 cars or 9,400 less than during the same period last season. The decrease recently was mostly in movement of watermelons, cantaloupes, and potatoes. Peach shipments greatly increased.

Prices of peaches declined materially. Some of the eastern fruit is not of very good quality and carlot movement from all

states increased rapidly to a total of nearly 3,500 cars for the week. Arkansas increased sharply to 1,330 cars, while Tennessee forwarded 420, North Carolina 540 and South Carolina 225 cars. Georgia dropped to 370 and Texas to 70 cars. Central California shipments had increased to 400.

Home-grown tomatoes were beginning to compete actively with shipped-in stock. Maryland East Shore had become the leading source of carlot supply, with a record of 160 cars for the week. Ohio increased to 140 cars, but Tennessee was nearly finished with a total of 85 during the seven-day period. Virginia was active. Combined movement by rail and boat from all shipping states decreased to 650 cars.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	July 1-27	July 14-20	July 22-28	Total this season to July 27	Total last season to July 28	Total last season
	1929	1929	1928			
Apples	350	436	894	2,163	8,291	12,478
Cabbage	217	145	144	22,639	17,704	38,786
Carrots	32	90	11	8,062	5,199	7,300
Cherries	120	189	88	2,097	2,492	3,571
Cucumbers	190	245	273	8,223	6,031	7,466
Green peas	177	212	168	8,886	3,917	4,658
Mixed vegetables	482	870	585	21,543	22,585	33,372
Mixed deciduous fruit	248	199	472	1,403	2,474	6,496
Peaches	8,490	1,815	8,721	10,409	21,397	37,595
Pears	833	404	1,843	1,516	4,387	24,480
Peppers	47	68	87	2,881	2,606	5,599
Plums and prunes	109	146	170	1,458	3,062	7,295
String beans	32	19	10	6,979	5,996	6,707
Tomatoes	655	852	647	21,620	21,100	38,357

Mexican West Coast Vegetable Shipments

Records of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company of Mexico indicate that the total movement of perishables from the Mexican West Coast through the border port of Nogales into the United States and Canada during 1928-29 amounted to 6,116 carloads as compared with 6,016 carloads during 1927-28, according to a report from the American consul at Guaymas. Of that amount 5,681 carloads are shown to have been shipped to the United States and 435 to Canada, as against 5,666 to the United States and 350 to Canada during 1927-28. These shipments include those made by water through Topolabampa and Mazatlan and those made via Guadalajara.

Floods in December, 1927 caused a diversion of shipments via Guadalajara, and in March and April, 1929, the revolution caused several diversions. When these shipments are included, a gain of 100 cars is shown for 1928-29 over those for 1927-28, which was a result chiefly from much larger shipments of green peas.

The following table shows the shipments of the principal commodities during the last two seasons:

	1927-28	1928-29
	<i>Cars</i>	<i>Cars</i>
Tomatoes	3,703	3,801
Pens	978	1,419
Green peppers	442	805
Mixed and miscellaneous	548	158
Total	5,666	5,661
Shipments to Canada	359	435
Grand total	6,016	6,116

Of the total shipments, 5,656 cars were shipped by the Nogales route, 359 by Guadalajara, 68 by Topolabampa, and 33 by Mazatlan.

Acreages of Late Commercial Truck Crops

Carrots.—The preliminary estimate of the late carrot acreage indicates, according to the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, a slight increase over last year in New York; while for the other two states of the late group, current information is insufficient for a reliable comparison with 1928. Omitting Colorado in the late group and combining all groups reported to date, the total acreage for these groups appears to be 11 per cent larger than that of 1928.

Cauliflower.—An increase of 2,250 acres, or an acreage 55 per cent larger than that of 1928, is indicated in the 1929 preliminary estimate. Colorado shows an acreage more than double that of last year, and New York appears to have increased plantings 22 per cent. The total acreage for all groups reported to date represents an increase of 16 per cent over last year and a 44 per cent increase over the average acreage during the past five years.

Celery.—The preliminary estimate of the late celery acreage is 7 per cent larger than that of 1928 and 6 per cent larger than the average acreage grown during the past five years. Increases are indicated in New York, Michigan, and Colorado. Combining the early and late crops, the total acreage for the 1929 season appears to be 7 per cent larger than that of the 1928 season and 19 per cent greater than the average acreage during the past five years.

Weather Conditions

Unsettled weather prevailed during much of the week ended July 30, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau, but rainfall was

mostly confined to the Gulf states and some northern portions of the country.

Temperatures were below normal quite generally over the southern tier of states from southwestern South Carolina to central Arizona where the minus departures reached as much as 3 degrees. In all other portions of the country, except locally in the far Northwest and in California, temperatures ranged above the seasonal average, reaching from 6 to 11 degrees in the North-Central states and part of the Lake region.

Except in the Gulf states and some local areas elsewhere, rain is now needed quite generally over much of the country. In the East, especially the Middle Atlantic states, moisture is becoming badly needed and a general rain would be very beneficial over much of the Corn Belt, but there were locally helpful falls in the Ohio Valley and western Kansas. The Northwest continues generally dry, with crop prospects discouraging, although in sections where irrigation is practiced excellent advance was made. Showers were beneficial in some central Rocky Mountain districts and the Southwest, where the range and water supply revived, but the Great Basin is generally dry, as well as the more western states. In the Southeast showers were of frequent occurrence, delaying outdoor operations, and some lowlands are still too wet, while local hail damage was reported in Alabama. Rain is rather badly needed in most sections of the main corn belt, and the progress of the crop averaged only fair on this account.

Car Loadings

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended July 20	1,078,695	421,548	257,517	399,639
Preceding week	1,064,632	416,286	256,754	391,048
Corresponding week, 1938	1,032,848	410,260	255,792	367,361
Corresponding week, 1937	1,012,583	390,303	256,385	368,697

Wholesale Trade in June

Sales at wholesale during June declined more than is usual at this time of season. Decreases were general throughout the country and were shown for all the reporting lines of trade, except meat. As compared with the corresponding month a year ago, there was a decrease in the volume of sales of groceries.

Changes in sales and stocks of wholesale groceries, by districts, are shown in the following table, the percentages indicating increases except where the minus sign is used.

Districts	Sales: June, 1929 compared with—		Stocks: June, 1929 compared with—	
	May, 1929 Per cent	June, 1928 Per cent	May, 1929 Per cent	June, 1928 Per cent
United States	— 1.0	— 2.1	— 5.6	— 2.8
Boston	8.7	0.9
New York	1.4	2.8	— 16.3	5.1
Philadelphia	— 2.5	— 0.6	— 6.5	— 0.5
Cleveland	— 1.8	— 1.7	— 3.3	— 5.2
Richmond	— 5.1	— 9.4	— 6.2	— 2.5
Atlanta	— 7.7	— 0.5	— 8.4	— 10.7
Chicago	— 0.8	— 2.3	— 0.3	6.6
St. Louis	— 3.6	— 3.5	— 3.0	— 13.8
Minneapolis	— 6.0	— 1.0	— 4.0	— 2.0
Kansas City	— 5.8	— 13.1	— 8.3	— 15.4
Dallas	— 2.0	— 0.2	— 6.2	7.4
San Francisco	— 4.5	— 1.7	— 1.7	18.1

Production and Stocks of Canned Milk in June

Both production and stocks of canned milk have increased, as is expected at this time of year, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. June production is estimated to have been about 13 per cent greater than for the same month last year, the heaviest increase taking place in evaporated case goods, for which there is a growing demand. This brings the estimated production of condensed and evaporated milk from January to June, inclusive, to about 11 per cent heavier than for similar months in 1928.

While June production showed a substantial increase over June of last year, and total stocks are considerably heavier, the latter have not accumulated as rapidly as in 1928. Total stocks of condensed and evaporated milk on July 1 amounted to 280,720,791 pounds, approximately 79,000,000 pounds more than on June 1st. This is, however, around 7,000,000 pounds less than the increase for the same period a year ago, although it is about 14,000,000 pounds more than the 5-year average increase. Unsold stocks on July 1st amounted to 208,332,417, which was a 10 per cent increase over unsold stocks on the same date last year.

Examiner Recommends Dismissal of Complaint

In the case involving the freight rate on tin plate, in car-loads, from Granite City, Ill., to Iola, Kans., the Interstate Commerce Commission examiner has submitted a report recommending that the Commission find the rate not unreasonable and dismiss the complaint.

Will Exclude Certain Fruit Stocks

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced that on and after July 1, 1931, by amendment to Quarantine 37, Mahaleb

cherry, Myrobalan plum and other fruit stocks will be excluded from entry into the United States.

This decision is based on evidence presented at the fruit stocks conference held by the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration and the Federal Plant Quarantine Board, July 19, 1929, which indicated that the present availability of satisfactory American-grown stocks of these fruits was sufficient to justify the exclusion of these stocks after a reasonable period for adjustment of business contracts, etc., and thus terminate the very considerable and continuing risk of entry with such stocks of new and dangerous fruit pests.

Canada Requires Affidavits for Importations of Canned Fish and Shellfish

Section 25 of the Regulations under the "Meat and Canned Foods Act" has been rescinded, according to the Assistant Trade Commissioner at Ottawa, and a provision substituted requiring that collectors of customs shall not clear any importation of fish or shellfish preserved for food in cans, or such like hermetically sealed containers, unless such shipment is accompanied by an affidavit taken before a justice of the peace or other person duly authorized, in the country of origin, to attest such declarations in the following form:

Place
Date

I, (or we) hereby declare that the shipment described herein was manufactured from sound raw materials, and that its manufacture was carried on under proper sanitary conditions, and under proper supervision; that the products are, at the time of shipment, sound, wholesome and fit for human food; that the containers show thereon the name and address of the packers, or of the importer, the place of origin, a true description of the contents and the weight as required by section 26 of the Meat and Canned Foods Act, of the Dominion of Canada.

..... Signature and address of packer or shipper.

Name and address of consignee

No. of packages

No. of containers in such package

Name of product

..... (Signature of commissioner or justice of the peace)

Sworn to before me this day of 19.....

It is also provided that all importations of fish or shellfish preserved for food in cans, or such like hermetically sealed con-

tainers shall be subject to such inspection, in the Dominion of Canada as may be deemed necessary or advisable, and any such fish or shellfish that does not conform to the declaration required in this regulation, shall, upon condemnation by a properly authorized inspector be forfeited to His Majesty and may be disposed of as the Minister may direct.

Army Asks for Bids

The Quartermaster Supply Officer, U. S. Army Supply Base, Brooklyn, N. Y., is asking for bids on a large variety of canned foods for delivery on or before September 20 at various Army posts. Bids will be opened at 9 a. m. August 14. Copies of the schedule (No. 626-30-21) can be obtained on application to the Quartermaster Supply Officer.

The Contracting Officer, Q. M. C., at Fort Monroe, Va., is asking for bids on subsistence supplies including canned foods. Bids will be opened at 1.30 p. m. on August 20. Copies of the schedule (No. 570-30-9) on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Contracting Officer.

Possibility of Making Infested Citrus Fruit Safe for Shipment

Secretary of Agriculture Hyde has announced that the research work which has been intensively prosecuted in Florida on methods of destruction of the Mediterranean fruit fly indicated the possibility that, by modification of existing practices in pre-cooling and coloring, fruit might be made safe for shipment.

The Secretary also said that there was reason to believe that the development of these methods as a supplement to the other suppressive measures then in force would make possible the movement of the citrus crop of this year without exposing additional areas to risk of infestation. He emphasized that although this would involve a distinct modification of present restrictions on the movement of citrus fruit from all zones, and would avoid the general destruction of fruit in zone 1, it was believed that it would aid the eradication effort by the relief it would afford to the acute economic situation and by making it more possible for growers to continue full co-operation.

New California Sardine Law

The California legislature has passed a bill regulating the catching of sardines, which was signed by the Governor of the state and is now a law. The bill is identified as No. 831 and reads as follows:

Section 1. A new section is hereby added to the penal code to be numbered 628m and to read as follows:

628m. It shall be unlawful to take, catch, kill or have in possession any sardines in the State of California at any time except as provided in this section. It shall be lawful to take, catch, kill and have in possession sardines during the open season which shall begin and end, both dates inclusive, as herein prescribed; the open season in fish and game districts numbered eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-a and twenty-one shall be from November first of one year to March thirty-first of the year following; the open season elsewhere in the state shall be from August fifteenth of one year to February fifteenth of the year following; provided, that sardines may be taken or held in possession at any time for bait or for sale in the fresh fish market or for consumption in a fresh condition or for the purpose of packing in cans commonly known as quarter-pound or square cans less than a half pound in net weight.

Foreign Trade Notes

The four canners of tropical fruit products (mostly guava and banana paste) in Pernambuco have formed a cooperative association for the sale of their products, according to the American consul in that city.

The outlook for sales of canned fruits and vegetables in the Shanghai market is not particularly optimistic, according to the American trade commissioner, as dealers are still carrying heavy stocks ordered to arrive prior to February 1, 1929, the date when the new tariff schedule became effective. In addition, the exchange rate is adverse.

Publications of Interest to Canners

California commercial fish catch.—Fish Bulletin 15, California Division of Fish and Game, Sacramento, is entitled "The Commercial Fish Catch of California for the Years 1926 and 1927." The bulletin includes a list of common and scientific names for California fishes and chapters on "Cannery and Market Fish," "Sardines," "Salmon," and "Tuna Seasons."

Onion culture.—"The Culture of Onions in Indiana" is the title of a publication recently issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Purdue University, Layfayette, Ind., as Circular 158. The circular deals with the preparation of soil, fertilizers, cultivation and harvesting, as well as with insect pests and diseases affecting the onion. Interested members can secure copies of this circular by writing to the Experiment Station at the above address.